

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
2nd Session

Vote No. 214

July 23, 1996, 10:16 am
Page S-8495 Temp. Record

Subject:

SUBJECT: Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 . . . S. 1956. D'Amato amendment No. 4927.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 99-0

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1956, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, will enact major welfare reforms. The Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program will be replaced with a new Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to the States. The TANF block grant will be capped through 2001. Time limits will be placed on individuals receiving TANF benefits. Overall, the growth in non-Medicaid welfare spending will be slowed to 4.3 percent annually. The bill originally included major Medicaid reforms, but most of those provisions were stricken when the bill was reported. Without those Medicaid reforms, welfare spending will still be reduced by \$61.4 billion over 6 years.

The D'Amato amendment would require a parent or caretaker receiving assistance under this program who was not exempt from work requirements to work at a community service job within 2 months of enrolling if he or she did not yet have a job or was not in a job-training program. States would determine the minimum number of hours that would have to be worked and would determine the tasks that would have to be performed. The effective date would be 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act. Individual States could elect not to adopt this community service requirement.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

The D'Amato amendment would require able-bodied welfare recipients to work within 2 months of their going on welfare unless they were in job-training or could prove the unavailability of child care for their children under the age of 11. If they could not find jobs they would be given community service jobs by the State. This requirement is not only not harsh, it is perhaps the best thing that we can do for people on welfare. Fifty years ago, President Franklin Roosevelt warned, "If people stay on welfare for a prolonged period of time it administers a narcotic to their spirit." He went on to say that "this dependence on welfare undermines their humanity, makes them wards of the State, and takes away their chance at America." He started the Works Progress Administration to give

(See other side)

YEAS (99)				NAYS (0)		NOT VOTING (1)	
Republican (52 or 100%)		Democrats (47 or 100%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Helms	Akaka	Inouye			Kassebaum- ⁴	
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Baucus	Johnston				
Bennett	Inhofe	Biden	Kennedy				
Bond	Jeffords	Bingaman	Kerrey				
Brown	Kempthorne	Boxer	Kerry				
Burns	Kyl	Bradley	Kohl				
Campbell	Lott	Breaux	Lautenberg				
Chafee	Lugar	Bryan	Leahy				
Coats	Mack	Bumpers	Levin				
Cochran	McCain	Byrd	Lieberman				
Cohen	McConnell	Conrad	Mikulski				
Coverdell	Murkowski	Daschle	Moseley-Braun				
Craig	Nickles	Dodd	Moynihan				
D'Amato	Pressler	Dorgan	Murray				
DeWine	Roth	Exon	Nunn				
Domenici	Santorum	Feingold	Pell				
Faircloth	Shelby	Feinstein	Pryor				
Frahm	Simpson	Ford	Reid				
Frist	Smith	Glenn	Robb				
Gorton	Snowe	Graham	Rockefeller				
Gramm	Specter	Harkin	Sarbanes				
Grams	Stevens	Heflin	Simon				
Grassley	Thomas	Hollings	Wellstone				
Gregg	Thompson		Wyden				
Hatch	Thurmond						
Hatfield	Warner						

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

people a chance to contribute something back for the money they were give by the Government to survive. People today are no different than they were 50 years ago or than they will ever be. They need to be able to contribute; they cannot just take without losing their sense of purpose and self-esteem. The answer to welfare is work. We urge Senators to support this amendment.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.